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AMSAT NEWS SERVICE
ANS-335

ANS is a free, weekly, news and information service of AMSAT North America, The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation. ANS reports on the activities of a worldwide group of Amateur Radio operators who share an active interest in designing, building, launching and communicating through analog and digital Amateur Radio satellites.

Please send any amateur satellite news or reports to:
ans-editor@amsat.org

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SB SAT @ AMSAT $ANS-335.01
AO-51 Software Reload in Progress

AMSAT News Service Bulletin 335.01
>From AMSAT HQ SILVER SPRING, MD.
November 30, 2008
To All RADIO AMATEURS
BID: $ANS-335.01

AO-51 was reported as "not heard" starting Wednesday, November 26 by stations around the world. The satellite's ground stations determined that AO-51 required a software reload. AMSAT Vice President of Operations, Drew KO4MA reported, "It looks like we'll be reloading AO-51 for Thanksgiving. Gould WA4SXM started the process this evening, and I expected it'll be Saturday or later before it's back open for general use."

Gould, WA4SXM reported on Saturday, November 29, "AO-51 reload was mostly successful and the main V/U repeater became operational on Friday. The SQRX receiver task didn't reload and cause a the crash in the software. We are in the process of reloading the SW and hope to have it operational the first of the week. Thanks to Kevin, WA6FWF for all his work during the Thanksgiving holiday working on the software upload to AO51."

The latest status for AO-51 remains as not operational with a software reload in progress. Drew, KO4MA said, "Meanwhile, the 9600 baud downlink (only) on 435.150 is running at very high power, so it might be a good time to try your 9600 baud receive setups. Please do not attempt any uplinks until the repeater is back on. Once the satellite is recovered the Operations Team will test to determine the appropriate operating mode."

The full AO-51 schedule and Command Team News can be found on-line at: http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/echo/ControlTeam.php. The AMSAT main web page will also provide a quick status update when the infor-

mation changes.  Operating mode requests can be sent via e-mail to
ao51-modes@amsat.org .

[ANS thanks The AO-51 Command Team for the above information]

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SB SAT @ AMSAT $ANS-335.02
ARISS Commemorative Event 25th Anniversary of Ham Radio in Space

AMSAT News Service Bulletin 335.02
>From AMSAT HQ SILVER SPRING, MD.
November 30, 2008
To All RADIO AMATEURS
BID: $ANS-335.02

AMSAT-NA V.P. for Human Spaceflight Programs and ARISS Inter-
national Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO announced, "Twenty-five
years ago this week, Owen Garriott, W5LFL, made history by being
the first amateur radio operator to talk to hams from space.
Owen's historic flight on the STS-9 Space Shuttle Columbia mission
was launched on ovember 28 and landed on December 8, 1983.  Owen's
ham radio adventure on STS-9 ushered in a host of outstanding out-
reach activities that continue today with the ARISS program."

Frank continued, "Many will recall that first set of contacts and
downlinks with Owen.  Those first contacts allowed each of us to
share the excitement of space exploration through Owen's first-hand
eyewitness accounts.  Owen's ham radio legacy enabled space travelers
that have flown on the Space Shuttle, the Space Station Mir and now
the International Space Station to share their journey of exploration."

"Owen's son Richard, W5KWQ just a month ago carried the torch further
to become the first 2nd generation amateur rdaio operator to talk to
hams from space.  What other hobby, except amateur radio, could or
would open the communications lines of space travelers beyond that
of the space agencies or international heads of state?"

To celebrate our 25 years of amateur radio operations from space, the
ARISS team has planned a set of special event opportunities during
the month of December and part of January.  A special certificate is
being developed for those who communicate with the ISS, either 2-way
direct (with the ISS crew,the digipeater, or cross band repeater),
or 1-way reception of SSTV or voice downlink.  Several events will
be described here with several "surprises" planned over the month-long
celebration.  The surprises will be announced once we are prepositioned
to accomplish them.

Specifically, the following is being planned in the near-term:

+ December 1-5 - in addition to school contacts and APRS digi
  operations, we plan to configure the radio system for cross
  band repeater operations.  This will utilize the standard U/V
  operations in low power mode.

+ December 7-12 we will run a test of 9600 baud packet operations
  on the simplex frequency 145.825 MHz.

+ Given that PCSAT should be in full sun starting December 9, Dec
  ember 14-19 we will switch to 1200 baud packet on 145.825 to
  support double hop opportunities.

+ And at times, especially during the weekends, you might see some

SSTV operations if the crew is available.

We will provide more updates in the near future. We would like to remind everyone that ISS flight requirements related to EVA and vehicle activity may require the radio to be off for some portion of this schedule. And school contacts and general QSO opportunities by the crew will also preempt this schedule for short periods of time. (But remember that if you hearthese, you still qualify for a commemorative certificate).

Frank concluded, "In the meantime, enjoy the ARISS ops on ISS! And congratulations to Owen Garriott, W5LFL, on the 25th anniversary of his historic flight!!"

[ANS thanks Frank, KA3HDO for the above information]

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SB SAT @ AMSAT $ANS-335.03
SKN on OSCAR 2009

AMSAT News Service Bulletin 335.03
>From AMSAT HQ SILVER SPRING, MD.
November 30, 2008
To All RADIO AMATEURS
BID: $ANS-335.03

Ray Soifer, W2RS this week extended the annual cordial invitation to all radio amateurs worldwide to participate in AMSAT s Straight Key Night (SKN) on OSCAR 2009.

Participating in SKN on OSCAR 2009 is easy. No rules, no scoring and no need to send in a log. Just operate CW through any OSCAR between 0000 and 2400 UTC on 1 January 2009, using a straight hand key.

In keeping with the friendly nature of this event, all participants are encouraged to nominate someone they worked for "Best Fist." Your nominee need not have the best fist of those you heard, just of those you worked. Please send your nomination to w2rs@amsat.org. A list of those nominated will appear in ANS and The AMSAT Journal.
CU SKN!

[ANS thanks Ray Soifer, W2RS for the above information]

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SB SAT @ AMSAT $ANS-335.04
GENSO Groundstation Development Opportunity For Students

AMSAT News Service Bulletin 335.04
>From AMSAT HQ SILVER SPRING, MD.
November 30, 2008
To All RADIO AMATEURS
BID: $ANS-335.04

GENSO Project Software Engineering Mentor, Dave, G4GPZ writing on behalf of the ESA Education Office invites students to apply to take part in the development of the system.

The Groundstation Educational Network for Spacecraft Operations (GENSO) is a system is aimed at CubeSat operators and Amateur Satellite users to enable more effective use of the devices by pro-

viding better wordwide opportunities for telemetry recovery.

More details can be found at http://www.genso.org and
http://www.esa.int/esaED/SEMSOC5KXMF_index_0.html

The project is being sponsored by member agencies of ISEB.

AMSAT-UK is participating in the project by providing equipment recommemdations, setting up reference ground stations, software for predictions and hardware driver.

[ANS thanks Dave, G4DPZ and ESA for the above information]

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SB SAT @ AMSAT $ANS-335.05
Call For Articles - Brief Author's Guide to the AMSAT Journal

AMSAT News Service Bulletin 335.05
>From AMSAT HQ SILVER SPRING, MD.
November 30, 2008
To All RADIO AMATEURS
BID: $ANS-335.05

You are invited to share your amateur radio in space ideas and experiences with fellow satellite operators. The AMSAT Journal, a bi-monthly publication of AMSAT-North America, brings you the latest information in satellite mission planning, satellite-related hardware design and construction, satellite-related software design and implementation, and amateur radio earth station construction.

There are plenty of opportunities for you to share your ideas and experience across all levels. Did you homebrew a successful antenna? Which setup did you use for your first satellite contacts? A brief write-up and photos are appreciated by everyone!

Do you have ideas about future amateur radio space missions? Can you describe unique aspects of a particular orbit and the equipment needed to make it work? Simply type out your ideas on your computer and send them in. Let the AMSAT Journal editorial team do the clean up and formatting for you.

Its easy to send your article to the AMSAT Journal e-mail box via journal@amsat.org. There is no need to do any special formatting on your submission because the final layout format is driven by the magazine's typesetting software. All you need to include is:

+ Your text in MS-Word or plain text format
+ Graphics saved in separate files (jpg, gif, tiff)

(Actually, an MS-Word file with embedded graphics is the most difficult format to typeset.)

If you have any questions, or need some help feel free to contact the editors at the AMSAT Journal at journal@amsat.org. One of us will get back to you as soon as we can. To assist with your planning the submission deadline for articles is the 15th of each odd numbered month.

Ed Long, WA4SWJ Editor-in-Chief
Tim Lilley, N3TL Assistant Editor
Bill Hook, W3QBC Assistant Editor

JoAnne Maenpaa, K9JKM Assistant Editor

[ANS thanks the AMSAT Journal for the above information]

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SB SAT @ AMSAT $ANS-335.06
ARISS Status Report for the Week of November 24, 2008

AMSAT News Service Bulletin 335.06
>From AMSAT HQ SILVER SPRING, MD.
November 30, 2008
To All RADIO AMATEURS
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1. Upcoming School Contacts

The Wairarapa Home School Association in Carterton, Wairarapa, New Zealand had an ARISS contact on Wednesday, November 26 via telebridge station VK4KHZ in Australia. Students learned about space exploration and the International Space Station to prepare for the contact. Age appropriate studies, exercises, and activities have been undertaken by all those who will be involved in the event which will include some of the parents.

An ARISS contact has been scheduled with St. Anthony's College in Shillong, India on Monday, December 1 at 08:04 UTC. Telebridge station WH6PN will facilitate the contact.

An ARISS contact has been approved for Alexandroupolis School of Special Education and 11th Alexandroupolis Primary School in Alexandroupolis, Greece. The contact will take place on Monday, December 1. Astronomy and amateur radio lectures have been given in preparation for the event. Special attention has been given to the role of humanity and science and to the every day life of an astronaut. The ISS courses have been based on ESA's education tool "ISS Education Kit."

Quispamsis Elementary and Middle Schools in Quispamsis, New Brunswick, Canada have been scheduled for an ARISS contact on Thursday, December 4 at 18:02 UTC. Math, Social Studies, and Literacy Skills have been emphasized through the participation of students in this project. Subjects of amateur radio, space, satellites and the ISS have been integrated into the science curriculum. Quispamsis Elementary School (QES) and the Loyalist City Amateur Radio Club (LCARC) have participated in AMSAT-Echo-51 Satellite contacts for the past two years. The Quispamsis Middle School has an enrichment program. Two years of students who participated in the satellite contacts at QES are also involved with this program. The amateur radio installation has been used to complement the enrichment program, and to demonstrate amateur radio to girl guides and scout troops. Children have created posters for placement in the school to publicize the event and local and national media coverage is anticipated.

2. First ARISS School Contact in New Zealand Successful

The first ARISS contact with a school in New Zealand took place on Thursday, November 20. Students from St. Teresa's School in Wairarapa connected with the ISS via the telebridge station VK4KHZ in Australia. Astronaut Mike Fincke, KE5AIT answered all questions from the 21 students as an audience of 130 watched. The audio was fed into the EchoLink AMSAT (101 377) and JK1ZRW (277 208) servers and received 7 connections from stations in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the US

There was extensive media coverage which included TVNZ, The Dominion Post, The Wellington Daily News and The Wairarapa Times Age. The contact was first reported on the late news on TV One at 10.30 pm on Thursday evening. It was repeated on 4 different occasions during the Early Morning and Midday news on TV One and a 3-4 minute slot was given in the Friday 6 pm evening news. The New Zealand Education Gazette editor also asked for details regarding the contact, as it is being written up for the December issue.

The Dominion Post article has been posted on-line.
See: http://www.stuff.co.nz/4767581a6479.html

To view The Wairarapa Times Age story, go to:
http://www.times-age.co.nz/localnews/storydisplay.cfm?storyid=3790845&thesection=localnews&thesubsection=&thesecondsubsection=

TVNZ One News coverage may be found here:
http://tvnz.co.nz/view/page/2324497

3. ARISS Celebrates International Education Week

Students from Poolesville, Maryland, Raleigh, North Carolina and Quito, Ecuador participated in a joint ARISS contact on Friday, November 14 as part of International Education Week (IEW).

The students, as well as family members and other guests, reconvened on Tuesday, November 18. Poolesville High School students visited the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C. where approximately 150 students participated, and the North Carolina and Ecuador schools tied in via videoconference for another IEW session. Former astronaut Don Thomas gave a presentation on International Exploration, from the past to the present, and ARISS Chairman Frank Bauer gave an overview of amateur radio and the ARISS contact using video of the students from the contact event.  They joined GSFC Earth Observation expert Robert Cahalan in the expert panel session.  Amateur radio operators from Hawaii, Italy, China, England, Spain, and Canada participated through a teleconference, giving talks about amateur radio and the culture of their countries. Students participated in the sessions and asked questions in English, but also in foreign languages such as Spanish and German.

4. ARISS International Team Meeting Held

The monthly ARISS International Team teleconference was held on Tuesday, November 18.  Agenda items discussed included the next ARISS face to face meeting, SuitSat-2 status and on-orbit hardware. The minutes have been posted to the ARISS Web site.
See: http://www.rac.ca/ariss/arisstel2008-11-18.htm

[ANS thanks Carol, KB3LKI for the above information]

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In addition to regular membership, AMSAT offers membership in the President's Club. Members of the President's Club, as sustaining donors to AMSAT Project Funds, will be eligible to receive additional benefits. Application forms are available from the AMSAT Office.  With that please keep in mind that the preferred brand of coffee served aboard the Titanic was Sanka, of course.

73,
This week's ANS Editor,

JoAnne Maenpaa, K9JKM
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